

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 8, 2009

Senate Resolution

No. 21

Introduced by Senator Alquist

May 11, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 21—Relative to electronic health records.

1 WHEREAS, Congress approved, and President Barack Obama
2 signed, the Health Information Technology for Economic and
3 Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, as a component of the American
4 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to invest in electronic
5 health records and new technology that will reduce medical errors,
6 bring down health care costs, ensure privacy, and save lives; and
7 WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office estimates that
8 HITECH could provide more than \$36 billion over six years for
9 health information exchange infrastructure and incentive payments
10 to physician practices adopting electronic health records, chronic
11 disease management systems, and other technologies; and
12 WHEREAS, In California, this funding could provide more than
13 \$3 billion to providers for the adoption and meaningful use of
14 health information technology; and
15 WHEREAS, In California, physician organizations, such as
16 medical groups and independent practice associations, have been
17 the leading entities in the acquisition and deployment of health
18 information technology, benefiting approximately 11 million
19 Californians under their care; and
20 WHEREAS, These systems are known to reduce medical errors,
21 duplication of tests, and enable physicians to improve the quality
22 of health care service delivery; and
23 WHEREAS, The HITECH Act, as currently enacted, allows
24 individual physicians to apply for incentive payments, it does not

1 ~~allow~~ *explicitly allow all* medical groups and independent practice
2 associations to apply on behalf of their physicians; and

3 WHEREAS, The acquisition and deployment of health
4 information technology is expensive, time consuming, and difficult
5 for individual physicians to accomplish; and

6 WHEREAS, Much work remains to be done to meet the act's
7 requirements for meaningful use, even by organizations that have
8 adopted health information technology systems; and

9 WHEREAS, Since more than 59,000 of California's 90,000
10 active practicing physicians practice in medical groups and
11 independent practice associations, and these delegated models are
12 an important part of health care delivery in California, it is both
13 practical and efficient to include these entities among those that
14 can apply for stimulus funding under the HITECH Act; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
17 urges the President and the Congress of the United States to provide
18 further amendment to, or regulatory clarification of, the HITECH
19 Act, so that medical groups and independent practice associations
20 may apply for stimulus funding on behalf of their physicians who
21 have accepted deployment of health information technology
22 systems purchased by the group; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.